

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the abstract on page 43 with the following abstract:

-- ~~A shunt and method of use~~ An apparatus for maintaining distal blood flow during an arteriotomy procedure ~~is disclosed~~. The shunt includes first and second tubular members having proximal ports, distal ports, and lumens ~~therebetween~~ between the ports. The distal port of the second tubular member is ~~adapted for releasable attachment~~ can be releasably attached to the proximal port of the first tubular member. A second lumen merges and communicates at its distal end with the lumen of the first tubular member and includes a hemostatic valve attached to its proximal end. In using the apparatus for performing open endarterectomy, a filter device is inserted into the vessel and deployed downstream the region of interest in the internal carotid artery. The distal end of the ~~shunt~~ apparatus is advanced over the filter device and secured onto the artery. The proximal end of the ~~shunt~~ apparatus is inserted upstream the region of interest, typically in the common carotid artery. --